

**REMARKS**

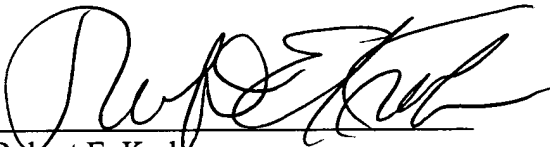
Entry of the foregoing amendment to the specification is requested to comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.78(a)(2).

Favorable consideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner should be of the opinion that a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,  
THELEN REID & PRIEST LLP

Dated: Apr. 19, 2001

  
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